**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD**

**NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2013**

**FOMB PRESIDENT**

**JIM RALEIGH PASSES**

We regret to inform you that our President, Jim Raleigh, passed away in Freehold on Wednesday, September 18, 2013. Jim had been in failing health for some time but still remained as active as he could until this spring. He was suffering from cancer for quite awhile but that seemed to be reasonably under control. Then he fell and cracked a vertebra in his neck, which forced him to wear a neck brace and slowed him down even more. He was in and out of the hospital all summer and fell into a rapid decline at the end of August.

Jim was one of the founding members of the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield. He was long time Vice President and served as President since 2003?. His knowledge of the battle and passion for Revolutionary War history were unrivalled. He was also active at various times with the Battleground Historical Society in Englishtown, Crossroads of the American Revolution, and the Rochambeau revolution group. He was a key member of the Road to Monmouth study group in 2003, and was a staunch opponent of the proposed commuter railroad line through the Park.

Jim was especially noted for his tours of the battlefield and battle area. He located the probable site of the American camps in Manalapan the night before the battle of Monmouth, and studied in detail the movements and troop positions during the morning phase of the battle to the east of Freehold. His last driving tour was to Briar Hill at the beginning of May?. We are glad that he was able to attend the opening of the new Park Visitor Center on June 24?. He also helped give a program on early maps of the battle (a topic dear to his heart) at the Park on June 28?.

Jim had a long and active life, with many interests (see a copy of his obituary on the next page of this newsletter).

Services were held in Colts Neck on Monday, September 30. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Fran, who is a Trustee and Secretary of FOMB, his son and daughter, two granddaughters, and other family and friends.

**FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC.**

**PO BOX 122, TENNENT, NJ 07763**

**www.friendsofmonmouth.org**

**JAMES T. RALEIGH**

**AGE 79 COLTS NECK**

Taken from *Asbury Park Press,* Sept. 20, 2013

James T. Raleigh, 79, resident of Colts Neck for 41 years, died Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, at CentraState medical center in Freehold, of complications of cancer, orthostatic hypertension, and kidney failure. Jim Raleigh was born in St. Paul, Minn. On June 28, 1934 to Rosemary Catharine Thomas of Winona, Minnesota and Stephen Martin Raleigh of Clyde, Kansas.

He was predeceased by his parents, and brother, Stephen Martin Raleigh, Jr. and brothers-in-law, Jacob Mazza and Thomas Wheeler. He is survived by his wife, Frances; daughter, Catherine Love; son-in-law Robert Endlicher; grandchildren, Melissa and Mary Love, all of Colts Neck; and son, James Michael Raleigh of Charlotte, TN; his sisters, Rosemary Mazza of Sinking Spring, PA and Margaret Wheeler of Langhorne, PA.

A graduate of Penn State University in BS Engineering Science Honors Program, he held many varied jobs: Radio Engineer, Bell Labs Engineer, and Systems Engineer in Apollo Communications for Bellcomm. He moved to Colts Neck in 1972 and worked at Bell Labs until his retirement.

Jim was never one to stay still. In the 1960’s he competed as white water canoeist in two world championships in Austria and Czechoslovakia. He also served as Vice Commodore of the American Canoe Association, overseeing the Olympic Trials in 1972 at the Savage River in western Maryland.

His love for Revolutionary War history brought his involvement in several groups: the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield, which he served as President; Battleground Historical Society at the Village Inn in Englishtown; Genealogy; and he was even CEO and President of Philip Frenau Press. He was very active the W3R organization (Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Reenactment). Further interests led him to being an active lobbyist for State historical, environmental and transportation issues, including the third tunnel project.

[Viewing was from 2 to 6 P.M. on Sunday, Sept. 22 at Holmdel Funeral Home, Holmdel. A Funeral Mass was said at St. Mary’s in Colt’s Neck at 9 A.M. on Monday, Sept. 23. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield, PO Box 122, Tennent, NJ 087763.]

Jim can be summed up with the phrase “having a quest for knowledge.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information on the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield, Inc. and our goals and programs, please contact Vice President Dr. David Martin at 609-448-6355 ([dmartin@peddie.org](mailto:dmartin@peddie.org)). Our mailing address is: THE FRIENDS OF MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD, INC., PO BOX 122, TENNENT, NJ 07763.

Our website address is: www.friendsofmonmouth.org

**NEXT FOMB GENERAL MEETING**

**WILL BE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2**

**(NOT Saturday Oct. 5)**

The next general meeting of FOMB will be held on Wednesday, October 2 at 7 PM at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, located on Symmes Drive in Manalapan Township. The date was erroneously listed at Saturday October 5 in the last newsletter. We apologize for the confusion. (If ever in doubt for event dates and times, have a look at our website or contact David Martin at [dmartin@peddie.org](mailto:dmartin@peddie.org).)

At the meeting, the slate of candidates for next year’s office will be presented, along with the budget and calendar of events for 2014, all of which were approved by the Trustees at their meeting on September 18.

The meeting’s program will be a discussion of the role played by Marquis de Lafayette in the war, and especially his contribution to the battle of Monmouth.

The final general meeting of the year will be the annual business meeting, to be held at 7 PM on Wednesday, December 4. 2013, also at the Monmouth County Library.

**MONMOUTH COUNTY  
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY DAY**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12**

The annual Monmouth County Archives and History Day will be held this year on Saturday, October 12, at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, located at 125 Symmes Drive in Manalapan.

The event runs from 10 AM to 2:45 PM. Exhibit tables will be manned by over forty different organizations from around the county and the State, including us, the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield. Come visit our display, especially if you have not been able to come to our gift shop at the new Park Visitor Center yet), and learn about the good work being done by our sister historical organizations.

**BATTLEGROUND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Battleground Historical Society maintains the historic Village Inn in Englishtown, which was built in 1732 and witnessed events before and after the battle of Monmouth. The Inn will be open the following dates from 1 to 4 PM: October 20, November 23, and December 15. Installation of officers will be held at the Inn on November 23, when John Savoline of the Matawan Historical Society will be guest speaker. For more information on meetings and membership, contact Hans Kernast, President, at 732-446-7833.

**CALENDAR FOR THE REST OF 2013**

October 2, 2013 (Wed) Program on the Marquis de Lafayette’s role in the battle. Meeting held at 7 PM at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, Symmes Drive, Manalapan.

**October 6, 2013 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

**Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM**

October 12, 2013 Monmouth County Archives and History Day, 10AM – 2:45 PM. Main branch of the Monmouth County Library, Manalapan.

**Nov. 3, 2013 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

**Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM**

**Dec. 1, 2013 (Sun) Walking tour of the battlefield.**

**Meet at Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.**

Dec. 4, 2013 (Wed) Annual business meeting. 7 PM at the main branch of the Monmouth County Library, Symmes Drive, Manalapan

Craig House and Visitor Center Gift Shop open Sundays, 1 to 4 PM.

**FOMB OFFICERS FOR 2013** (terms expire December 4, 2013)

Acting President Dr. David Martin

Secretary Fran Raleigh

Treasurer George Dawson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** (end of term in parentheses)

Andrew Beagle (2013) South Plainfield, NJ

Richard Bellamy (2014) Spotswood, NJ

Michael Cervini (2015) Toms River, NJ

George Dawson (2013) New Brunswick, NJ

Walter Kowalsky (2014) Freehold, NJ

Dr. David Martin (2015) East Windsor, NJ

Marilyn Miller (2015) Toms River, NJ

Joe Nemeth (2013) Edison, NJ

Fran Raleigh (2013) Colts Neck, NJ

Peter Wagner (2015) Englishtown, NJ

**GIFTSHOP OPEN SUNDAYS 1-4**

**NEW POSTCARDS FEATURED**

Our FOMB gift shop continues to be open every Sunday from 1-4 PM, manned by Acting President David Martin and Treasurer George Dawson. Business is very good due to the increased visitation at the Visitor Center, which is three to four times as high as it was at the old visitor center.

A new addition to the gift shop is new color post cards. We have been selling the same old post cards, mostly black and white, for the past ten years or more. The new postcards are all in color and expand our subject matter. They include a card of the old Parsonage, a new color version of Molly Pitcher from an old tobacco card (the same picture is also available on a refrigerator magnet), and a view of Molly Pitcher’s grave (Mary Hays McCauley) in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Additional cards featuring color sketches of Continental and British soldiers in their distinctive uniforms are being planned.

The card featuring the old Parsonage is especially interesting, since the building is no longer standing. It was constructed in 1706 as the residence for the Parson who served nearby Old Tennent Church. Vacant at the time of the battle, it was the center of heavy fighting late in the afternoon between three regiments under the command of Anthony Wayne, and the British Grenadiers. The old parsonage fell into disrepair after the battle and was torn down in 1859.

**MEMBERSHIP RECORD SET**

We are pleased to report that we now have 101 members (individuals and families), breaking the old record of 100 set in 2011. Included are 18 life members. Thanks to everyone for your support! If you have not yet renewed your membership, application forms are available on our website.

**CRAIG HOUSE STILL OPEN**

**AND WALKING TOURS STILL RUNNING**

The historic Craig House has been open every Sunday from 1-4 PM, and will continue to be open until the first Sunday in December. Visitation averages 15-20 every Sunday. Thanks are owed to Kathy and Eric Doherty for serving as docent guides.

Our popular walking tours continue to run the first Sunday of every month, with occasional mid month tours as listed on our website. The most recent tour ran on Sunday, September 22, to the Point of Wood sector of the battle. It had 14 participants and was conducted by David Martin. Remaining tours will be given on October 6, November 3 and December 1. Tours leave from the Visitor Center at 1:30 PM.

**CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT TO BE HELD OCT. 19-20**

A Civil War encampment will be held adjacent to the Visitor Center on Saturday October 29 and Sunday October 20. The event, which is sponsored by the Park, will consist of a company of soldiers with their tents in an encampment. Drills and musket firings will be held, along with children’s drills (see schedule below).

A special event will be a brief ceremony and talk at the site of the Camp Vredenburg marker, which was set up in 1988 immediately west of the parking lot at the Cobb House on Route 522 (about half way between Wemrock Road and Tennent). It will be held at 1 PM on Saturday. Camp Vredenburg was a Civil War training camp set up in the summer of 1862 and used until late 1864. Over 3000 men from central New Jersey trained there, belonging to the 14th, 28th, and 29th New Jersey infantry regiments. By chance, the site of the camp lies entirely within Monmouth Battlefield State Park. It is one of the few untouched Civil war training camp sites remaining in the state. The site is undeveloped except for agricultural use since the war.

This Civil War event will be a small encampment, NOT a big reenactment. It will be held rain or shine.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19

10 AM Camp opens to the public. Various demonstrations

11 AM 1st Drill and musket demonstration

11:30 AM 1st children’s drill

12 Noon Form up for ceremony at Camp Vredenburg

1 PM Ceremony and talk at Camp Vredenburg marker

Located on Route 522, just west of parking lot at

the Cobb House

1:30 PM March back to Visitor Center

3 PM 2nd drill and musket demonstration

3:30 PM 2nd children’s drill

6 PM Camp closed to the public

SUNDAY OCTOBER 20

10 AM Camp opens to the public. Various demonstrations

11 AM 1st drill and musket demonstration

11:30 AM 1st children’s drill

12 Noon Sunday service

2 PM 2nd drill and musket demonstration

2:30 PM 2bd children’s drill

4 PM Camp closed to the public

Departure

*Schedule subject to change.. Changes to be posted on FOMB website*

**NEW JERSEY’S SHOWCASE ON THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

by FOMB TREASURER GEORGE DAWSON

The new Monmouth Battlefield State Park visitor center which opened June 14 retains (but greatly expands) many of the features of the old. In a sense, the new center encompasses the whole of the American Revolution experience.

Its themes – beginning with General Greene’s message to George Washington on the need for the Battle of Monmouth – are laid out in six segments, entitled as follows:

* The Battle of Monmouth (welcome to Monmouth Battlefield State Park),
* The March to Monmouth,
* June 28, 1778: the Battle of Monmouth,
* The Legacy of Monmouth,
* The Battlefield through Time, and
* More Than a Battlefield.

The themes are expanded upon in text placards and (occasionally) audio narratives from battle participant re-enactors. Exhibit cases display battlefield artifacts – uniform buttons, musket balls, cannon shot (round, case and grape), military gear – much of it collected from the field by members of the Battleground Restoration and Archaeological Volunteer Organization (bravo), the local archaeological group.

Reproduction cannon – a 4-pound field gun and a French D’Annae 4-pounder (this mounted outside the building) – are shown and explained.

The scope of the exhibits is expansive. It begins with the French and Indian War, whose cost led to the new English taxes on the American colonists and began the protests which (over a decade) led to Revolution, and moves on to Yorktown and the War’s end and beyond. Manikins show the dress and gear of American and British Rev-War soldiers, but also an American Civil War soldier, who illustrates the presence of the Vredenberg training camp on the battlefield in the 1860s. The artifact displays include uniform fasteners and camp gear found by bravo archaeologists in the vicinity of New Brunswick, which the British Army occupied for 6½ months, in December-June 1776-77.

Local Monmouth fighters featured on the wall include Philemon Dickinson of Trenton, commander-in-chief of the New Jersey state militia, who was the younger brother of John Dickinson of Philadelphia, the principal Congressional skeptic on the idea of independence in July 1776; and Frederick Frelinghuysen of Millstone, commander of Somerset County militia regiments, the grandson of central Jersey Dutch Reformed colonial minister Theodorus Frelinghuysen and the first tutor of Queen’s College (now Rutgers University). Both Philemon Dickinson and Frederick Frelinghuysen went on to serve New Jersey in the U.S. Senate following the War. Frelinghuysen’s dress sword and scabbard are displayed in a wall case, courtesy of the New Jersey Historical Society.

The old relief map – reproducing the terrain, vegetation, and buildings of five square miles of battlefield topography (more than twice the territory encompassed in the 3,000-acre state park) – has been recreated and given a new narrative and electronic controls. It holds center-stage in the June 28, 1778 section, depicting the

**NEW JERSEY’S SHOWCASE…continued**

battle movements in tiny white, red, and blue lights. The map had stood in the original visitor center, but had been out of working order for years.

The map lights begin with the early morning moves of the British Army commanded by Henry Clinton out of their encampments around the tiny village of Monmouth Court House (now Freehold borough) on the east side of the map. The lights are followed from a distance by the Continental Army advance-force, commanded by Major General Charles Lee (second-in-command under George Washington), moving out of Englishtown on the west. The first shots are fired at 10 a.m., in downtown Freehold, between Lee’s troops and the British rear guard commanded by General Charles Lord Cornwallis.

Clinton then brings an onslaught of many more lights onto the scene in a counter-attack by his 8,000-member 1st Division; and Lee retreats. Lee falls back about 1½ miles, to a place soon to be called “Point-of-Woods,” there meeting his own commander, General George Washington, and Washington’s exclamation (according to a wall placard): “What is all this?”

The battle – elaborated in wall text and a series of wall-mounted maps designed by longtime park historian Garry Wheeler Stone – begins in earnest (and now within the bounds of the state park). The time is about 1 p.m., and the many-faceted episode of bouts and commotions continues to about 5.

The battle is further captured for audience display in a newly commissioned 10-minute video, shown in the center’s auditorium.

The “Grand Cannonade” begins. American field guns on Perrine’s Hill – not far from William Tennant’s Presbyterian meeting-house (still standing and serving worshipers as Old Tennant Church) – confront the British counter-attack. Proctor’s Artillery fires on a battalion of Royal Highlanders in Derick Sutfin’s apple orchard. Mary Hays, wife of a Proctor’s gunner – the legendary “Molly Pitcher” of Revolutionary War lore – carries water for the cannon crews and their weapons.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Rhea (who lived nearby) draws the attention of Major General Nathanael Greene to 150-foot Combs Hill (the highest spot in the park, on which the visitor’s center sits); and Greene places four other cannon there. The cannon cross-firing ends Clinton’s counter-attack, and the British withdraw.

It is now 5 p.m. in battle time. The video screen in the auditorium rises to display the actual battlefield from the brow of Combs Hill.

The movie, map narration, and wall text play down the conflict between Lee and Washington, often a focal point of past tales of Monmouth. The classic Emanuel Leutze painting of the Washington-Lee meeting is shown, but the text reads: “The famous 1857 painting of the battle is highly romanticized and highly inaccurate.”

Lee’s dismissal from the Army (in a one-year suspension) by a court-martial tribunal following the battle is described, but its verdict of a disobedient retreat is held to be more a show of respect for Washington than an actual compliance with the evidence. Lee never returned to the Army, and died four years later, before the War was even over.

The popularity of the new center is a tribute to the scope and detail of its offering. Michael Timpanaro, the park’s new staff historian, estimates the daily visits to the building have been averaging 100 or so.